

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SAM-01 IO-10 MC-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 201100Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9667

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

ANEMBASSY NICOSIA 3062

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, BY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REACTION: BASES QUESTION
DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ANKARA 4780

1. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE
FUTURE OF COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AND RELATED
DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUED TO DOMINATE HEADLINES AND EDITORIALS
IN MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES FRIDAY (JUNE 20).

2. STORIES INCLUDED:

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A. TOP FRONT PAGE REPORTS IN MILLIYET AND HURRIYET CONCERNED PRESIDENT FORD'S MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN ON ARMS AID TO TURKEY. HURRIYET'S STORY QUOTED PRESIDENT FORD AS SAYING THE U.S. WOULD "SACRIFICE GREECE FOR TURKEY," IF NECESSARY. MILLIYET'S ACCOUNT SAID PRESIDENT FORD TOLD THE CONGRESSMEN THAT "TURKEY IS NOT BLUFFING" AND THAT IF THE BASES WERE CLOSED, THE MIDDLE EAST BALANCE WOULD BE UPSET.

B. TOP FRONT PAGE REPORTS IN CUMHURIYET AND GUNAYDIN SAID THE U.S. WILL RESUME ARMS AID TO GREECE, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 160 MILLION DOLLARS. CUMHURIYET'S REPORT SAID HE AID WOULD INCLUDE ADVANCED GROUND-TO-AIR AND SURFACE-TO SURFACE MISSILIES.

C. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORT THAT GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN HIS CONSULTATION THURSDAY WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS IN ANKARA. SOME OF THESE REPORTS SAID GENSCHER BROUGHT A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD AND CONSERVATIVE ADALET SAID IN A BANNER HEADLINED STORY THAT HE HAD BROUGHT AN ANSWER TO TURKEY'S NOTE TO THE U.S. DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY TUESDAY.

D. SEVERAL OPPOSITION PAPER, INCLUDING MILLIYET AND BARIS, GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO A STATEMENT BY DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER FERRUH BOZBEYLI FOLLOWING HIS MEETING THURSDAY WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK. BOZBEYLI TOLD REPORTERS THAT IN HIS VIEW THE "MEASURES" TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO WERE WITHOUT SUBSTANCE.

E. PRO-GOVERNMENT TERCUMAN GAVE TOP FRONT PAGE COVERAGE UNDER THE HEADLINE "DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD EVEN IF THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED," TO WHAT APPEARED TO BE REPLAY OF WEDNESDAY'S TV INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL (ANKARA 4776) ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER DECLARED THAT THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ARE INVALID AND NEW ONES MUST BE PRODUCED THROUGH TALKS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE U.S.

3. IN OTHER COVERAGE, GUNAYDIN REPORTER/COMMENTATOR MEHMET BARLAS REPORTED THAT UNDER THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, IT

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MIGHT TAKE AS LONG AS TWO AND A HALF YEARS TO REMOVE AMERICAN BASES FROM TURKISH SOIL. IN A SEPARATE COMMENTARY, BARLAS ACCUSED THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OF HIDING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BASES AGREEMENTS.

4. THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ON THE EMBARGO ISSUE AND RELATED FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS FORMED THE BACKDROP OF MANY EDITORIALS FRIDAY. FOR THE MOST PART, THESE WERE

SHARPLY PARTISAN IN TONE. OPPOSITION PAPERS ASSERTED THAT DEMIREL'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE AND PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS CHARGED THAT CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ON THE EMBARGO QUESTION ARE PLAYING POLITICS AT THE EXPENSE OF NATIONAL INTERESTS. OF THESE EDITORIALS PERHAPS THE MOST MODERATE IN TONE WAS BY ABDI IPEKCI, EDITOR OF MILLIYET, WHO SAID THAT PARTISAN FEUDING ON FOREIGN POLICY IS DAMAGING TURKEY'S POSITION AND THAT IT IS UP TO THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN A FOREIGN POLICY DIALOG WITH THE OPPOSITION BY MAKING CLEAR ITS INTENTIONS ON CYPRUS.

5. IN ADDITION, MUCH EDITORIAL COMMENT FRIDAY DEALT WITH THE ARMS EMBARGO ITSELF.

6. CUMHURİYET COLUMNIST ALI SIRMEN SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN NO INCLINATION TO HELP TURKEY THROUGH THE EMBARGO. HE URGED THAT TURKEY WORK TO INCREASE HER INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ENHANCE HER PRESTIGE IN THE THIRD WORLD. "THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO HAS NECESSITATED THAT TURKEY FIND HER TRUE PLACE AND THAT THE PRO-AMERICAN AND PERMISSIVE POLICY BE REPLACED BY A NEW ALTERNATIVE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE," SAID SIRMEN.

7. GUNAYDIN COLUMNIST KORAY DUZGOREN DECLARED THAT U.S. RESTORATION OF AID TO GREECE HAS SHOWN WHOSE SIDE AMERICA IS ON AND THAT THE U.S. AIMS TO "DEFEAT TURKEY ON CYPRUS AND OBTAIN CONCESSIONS." CONCLUDED DUZGOREN, "WE MUST NO LONGER MAKE THE MISTAKE OF SEPARATING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THIS COUNTRY, WHOSE ATTITUDE TOWARD US IS SO ANTAGONISTIC AND INSIDIOUS.

8. WRITING IN PRO-DEMIREL SON HAVADIS, TEKİN ERER ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF SIDING WITH THE GREEKS BY IMPOSING THE ARMS EMBARGO. ERER CONCLUDED THAT: "THIS EVENT HAS SHOWN US THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS BECOME AN UNRELIABLE FRIEND. ALL OF THE JOINT AMERICAN BASES MUST BE EVACUATED WITHOUT HESITATION. FOR, IF THERE IS A WAR WITH GREECE TOMORROW, THE AMERICANS, MAKING USE OF THESE BASES, CAN DAMAGE US FROM WITHIN.... WE MUST TAKE PRECAUTIONS NOT TO KEEP ENEMIES AMONG US." BERGUS

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